

*B1*  
*CDT.* detecting a *Helicobacter pylori* nucleic acid present in a patient stool sample; and identifying the patient as having a current *Helicobacter pylori* infection if the nucleic acid is present in a length and an amount indicative of infection, the amount exceeding an amount indicative of an absence of current *Helicobacter pylori* infection.

*11.* *18.* (Twice Amended) A method for detecting a *Helicobacter pylori* infection in a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

*B2* detecting a human nucleic acid in a patient stool sample comprising shed cells or cellular debris; and

identifying the patient as having disease if the length of the nucleic acid is indicative of infection.

*12.* *19.* (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the length is a length of 175

*B3* nucleotides.

*13.* *20.* (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount indicative of infection is a detection threshold.

*L* Please add the following new claim 24:

*B4* *14.* *24.* The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of exposing the patient stool sample to an immobilized probe that hybridizes to *Helicobacter pylori* nucleic acids, thereby to immobilize a *Helicobacter pylori* nucleic acid, if present in the patient sample.